

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-22 are pending. Claim 22 has been added to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Galasso, U.S. Patent No. 6,384,302 B1 ("Galasso"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Galasso.

In particular, an aspect of the present invention is to provide H.323 or other telecommunication endpoints with a control layer which provides a communication domain identification (CDI) assigned to a user during call setup or other situations in which it is desirable to have domain-restricted functionality. In the call setup embodiment, the CDI may be used during the address resolution phase of the H.323 direct signaling mode. In particular, the CDI is used to determine whether the call is to a user at another extension of the same company. In the direct signaling mode, the communication domain identification control layer accesses a local database to make this determination. Similarly, the CDI may be provided during call setup in gatekeeper routed signaling. In this case, a communication domain identification control layer provides the CDI to the gatekeeper. The gatekeeper then performs the address resolution using the CDI to determine whether the call is to a user of another extension of the same company. Embodiments of the present invention thus allow for more than one virtual domain to be associated with a single gatekeeper.

Thus, claim 1 recites "wherein said H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier for address resolution during a media communication, said communication domain identifier permitting use of virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication

domain identifier;" claim 6 recites "wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers;" claim 11 recites "wherein predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers;" and claim 17 recites "storing a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI) in said plurality of endpoints, said CDI identifying an association of said endpoints with virtual domains associated with one of said at least one gatekeeper; and accessing said database to determine a CDI of a called party when a call is made."

In contrast, Galasso provides a master gatekeeper 310 that maintains a database 320, but neither the gatekeeper nor the endpoints of Galasso maintain communication domain identifiers, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Thus, a call request in Galasso appears to involve no more than transmission of the terminal alias of the called party. The master gatekeeper then accesses a database to determine the terminal address and route the call. No CDI associated with an endpoint, as generally recited in the claims at issue, is involved. Thus, Galasso appears representative of the problem solved by the present invention, which allows for, inter alia, plural virtual private networks for multiples companies over a single physical network. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Newly added claim 22 is believed allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above.

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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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